

# THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

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## ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

### Communications.

#### ON CHOLERA.

*Read before the Philadelphia County Medical Society,  
October 11th, 1865.*

BY ANDREW NEBINGER, M. D.

(Reported by Wm B. Atkinson, M. D., Recording Secretary.)

Cholera, epidemic cholera, the subject selected by the Business Committee for this evening's discussion, is perhaps, of all others, the most important, if not the most interesting, to which our attention could be invited, in view of its destructive prevalence abroad, and the probability of the disease visiting our homes at no very remote period.

As conservators of the public health, it is our duty early to discuss this subject, coolly, temperately, to sound the alarm, and to invite public and private energies and resources to marshal themselves and to make ready for the coming conflict, to prevent the spread of the disease, and its devastation from being as vast as it will be, if the necessary preventive or modifying hygienic measures, public and private, are not applied, and by the study of the nature and treatment of this formidable and malignant malady, to so qualify ourselves as to enable us at the bedside to divest it of much of its terror and malignancy.

Cholera, for the purpose of study, has been divided into four stages. Indeed, it may be said it divides itself into those stages. The first is the incipient. Second, the stage which is principally marked by gastric and enteric disturbance, accompanied with cramps or spasmodic action of the muscles. Third, the collapse. Fourth, the stage of reaction, or febrile stage, as it has been called by JOSEPH BROWN.

1st. The incipient stage. During the prevalence of epidemic cholera, and indeed for a short period, say for two weeks, anterior to its outbreak, it has been remarked that nearly entire communities have complained of a sense of lassitude, an uncomfortable feeling in the bowels, particularly about the umbilicus, with a disposition, on the part of the bowels, to be easily provoked by slight causes to frequent movements. This condition is followed by a diarrhoea, which is accompanied with but little, if any pain, and is only slightly exhausting. Those thus affected will often move abroad, attend to their business, and sometimes look upon this condition

with some favor, regarding the diarrhoea, particularly as it is unassociated with pain, as an activity of the bowels which has been averted to remove some unhealthy condition, which, if not so removed, would ultimately produce some serious disturbance of the general health. This view of the incipient diarrhoea of cholera I know, in 1849, to have been entertained by many, some of whom refused to use in good season remedies for its arrest. The diarrhoea, for the first day or more, is fecal and of a somewhat bilious character. The discharges are rather small, and not very frequent, especially if quietude or rest be observed. The evacuations now alter, they are no longer fecal, but become thin, watery, copious, and frequent, attended with very slight pain, but accompanied with a feeling of prostration. These, then, are the conditions of the first or incipient stage of cholera, and which have been called by some cholérine.

This is the important period for action—the time for the effective use of remedial agents, the period when the vast majority of those attacked with cholera, by judicious treatment, may be cured, and many of them prevented from reaching the second and vastly more unmanageable, as it is the more painful stage of the disease. Unfortunately, in consequence of the incipient or cholérine stage having associated with it but little pain, and the sickness being regarded by the sufferer as a slight attack of ordinary diarrhoea or looseness of the bowels, medical attendance is often not invited, and if remedies are used, they are domestic remedies for bowel complaints, or some publicly puffed or privately recommended cholera mixture. The first stage being fully developed, and the second stage about to commence, although the sufferer may not feel much, if any, alarm for his safety, or even recognize his condition, his appearance has become so changed, this change being marked by a somewhat sunken condition of the eyes, pinched-up features, and altered voice, that those about him take alarm, which being expressed, he then, for the first time, realizes the fact that he is being tightly held as a victim of cholera.

It is of the utmost importance that the community should be instructed in regard to this condition, that they may learn to regard it as every well instructed physician regards it, as the beginning of cholera, and not only as its beginning, but the period, of all others, in the condition of the disease, when remedies may be applied and treatment pursued with the greatest probability of success; that this, the golden opportunity for the arrest of the disorder, not understood or disregarded, the probability of the fatality of the attack will be increased many-fold, with the surety of greatly increased suffering.

The community, I repeat, should be instructed in this matter, that they may understand the vast importance of an early application for judicious medical interference, and this instruction must be conveyed to them by medical gentlemen verbally, or through the instrumentality of the secular press. I fear that there may be periods when the profession is too reticent, and that the well and properly cherished aversion to appear in the secular press, or to have any of the proceedings of its societies to meet the public through such channels, may be carried too far, and the public be thus denied the vast benefits of instruction in regard to the early commencement of treatment of the disease, when it presents in an epidemic form, and the means of prevention, which they can only receive with faith and confidence from the enlightened members of the medical profession. Asking forgiveness for this partial digression, I will return to the consideration of our subject.

The incipient stage of the disease being passed, the patient enters upon the second stage. This is marked by diarrhoea, the discharges being frequent, serous, of slight odor, and of color closely resembling rice water, and hence have been called "rice water discharges"—these discharges have floating in them white flocculi. The evacuations are frequently very large, amounting to a pint and more for several successive motions, and are thrown off, as a general thing, with great force, and are but seldom preceded by, or accompanied with, or followed by acute pain. Each discharge exhausts the patient in a marked degree, and produces decided change in the expression of the face and reduction of the pulse. After the serous diarrhoea has continued for a few hours, vomiting sets in, sometimes the diarrhoea and vomiting occur at the same time. The first matter ejected from the stomach, if the patient had not taken food for a few hours previous, is a thin glairy mucus, mixed with a watery fluid; after a few such ejections, there is set up the vomiting of a clear, almost colorless, watery-looking fluid. At first, the quantity is small, but in a little time becomes large, so large, indeed, that patients will express surprise at the quantity of water which they eject, and make the inquiry of where it all comes from, they having drank only a very small quantity, compared with that which the stomach has thrown off. There is now going on in the bowels and stomach exosmotic action to so great an extent that the blood becomes exhausted of its serum, and the tissues, as a result, yield up their fluid to the absorbents to such an extent as to cause the sufferer to rapidly emaciate. The serous diarrhoea and serous vomiting being now fully established, cramps or muscular spasms of the limbs take place. These are soon associated with spasms or cramps of the abdominal and other muscles, spasms of the stomach and bowels. Now it is that the acute suffering begins—the cramps are terrific, the patient screams out in the greatest agony, and implores relief. The whole expression is changed, the eyes become deeply buried in their orbits, the cheeks sunken, the lips attenuated and cyanosed, the nose thinned, and the nostrils compressed, the trunk, limbs, and fingers wasted; the voice

husky, feeble, and sepulchral; the temperature of the body reduced to such a degree as to feel unpleasantly cold to the touch of the physician and attendants, the tongue, partaking of the condition of the body, presents an unpleasant sense of coldness when touched. But little urine is voided, and is dark in color and strong in odor. The mind remains clear, and all the senses acute. The thirst is almost intolerable, and if the patient is permitted to take any fluid, it is cast off from the stomach almost immediately after being swallowed.

The disease not arrested, the collapse, the third and by far the most unmanageable stage of the disorder is ushered in. This is marked by diminished evacuations of the bowels, an abatement or complete absence of the vomiting, and a cessation to a very great degree of the cramps. The surface of the body becomes cold, the feet and hands of almost icy coldness, the tongue shrunken and very cold, the breath cold, the entire body bathed in cold perspiration, the hands and fingers shrivelled as if they had been held for a long period in water, and hence have been called "the washerwoman's hands;" the voice is very feeble, husky, and cavernous, lividity or blueness of the surface of the body, great lividity beneath the finger and toe nails; the eyes extremely sunken, the features so contracted and pinched up as to make recognition difficult. The pulse becomes scarcely perceptible at the wrists. Dulness of mind and personal indifference, and an almost total disregard of the things which appertain to time and eternity steals over the sufferer, to be followed, in a large majority of cases, by death; or occasionally, after existing in this sad and hopeless condition for many hours, reaction slowly, doubtfully advances until the fourth, the stage of reaction, or febrile stage, comes on.

This condition is marked by a slow return of the pulse at the wrists, a gradual increase in the temperature of the body, a fading away of the lividity, the eyes becoming more prominent, the voice more natural, a cessation of the excessive flow of perspiration, an absence of the indifference to the personal wants and interests. The countenance changes, and the entire expression becomes more natural. Now it is that complications are apt to spring up; such as inflammatory action of the stomach and bowels, the brain and its membranes, all of which will require the most careful management to bring the patient safely through to the haven of health.

The pathology of cholera may be said not to be fully made out. All we have in regard to it may be summed up in venous congestion of the stomach and bowels, sometimes the congestion of the liver, brain, and spinal cord, and sympathetic ganglia, dryness of the serous membranes, redness of the mucous membranes of the stomach and bowels, enlargement of the glands of BRUNNER and PEYER, and "lesions of the nerve centres and their investing membranes," and not unfrequently decided evidences of inflammation of the lungs have been observed.

It is unnecessary to remark anything in regard to the cause of cholera, it being, like that of most other diseases which prevail epidemically, not understood, but by some attributed to disturbed

electrical condition of the atmosphere, the presence of fungi, animalculæ, or a peculiar condition of the atmosphere, dependent either upon its altered atomic condition, or the presence of some *materies* or *seminia morbi*, or poison, the nature of which is not understood, and whose material character has never been detected.

Of the predisposing and exciting cause we know vastly more, and probably all that may be necessary to enable us, to a very great extent, to modify the influence of the cholera poison, to limit its ravages, and, under well regulated circumstances, prevent its attack.

Among the predisposing causes may be classed everything which is calculated to disturb the general health, to diminish the sum of vitality, and reduce the vital dynamics below the normal standard. The causes which are competent to bring about such results I need not here more than allude to, as they are those which are daily in operation, producing disease or adynamia, such, for example, as intemperance, irregularities of life, excessive toil, undue exposure, too small quantities of food, excessive eating and drinking, loss of sleep, great mental anxiety, a depraved or vitiated atmosphere produced by the presence of filth, imperfect drainage, decomposing animal and vegetable matter, the carrion gases generated at bone boiling, putrid fat and decomposed animal boiling establishments, and at the manufactories of fertilizing agents where the offal of slaughter-houses is used as a component part of the fertilizer.

Here, by the way of a parenthesis, permit me to remark that these boiling establishments and manufactories of fertilizers have become so numerous and so extensive in the southern section of the city as at the present time to create, in view of the expected visit of cholera, no little alarm in those who are residing within the limits of their baneful influences. Not only do they feel alarmed because of the contamination of the atmosphere by the foul gases which are eliminated at these establishments, but they recognize the fact that a fearful responsibility rests upon those to whom has been handed the great and important sanitary interests of the city, in not taking the necessary steps to abate or remove those causes of atmospheric pollution, and hence predisposing causes to attacks of cholera. In my heart, I hope cholera will not visit our city, but if it should breathe upon us its pestilential breath, and the residents of the localities where those great sources of atmospheric corruption exist, should be largely predisposed and afflicted, because of the corruption of the atmosphere by the foul gases which are generated at those boiling establishments and fertilizer manufactories, a muttering, nay, a loud utterance of dissatisfaction will be heard coming up from their midst, embodying the complaint that, notwithstanding they asked, urged, implored, and prayed the Board of Health to abate the nuisance and remove those sources of atmospheric vitiation, the Board was deaf to their complaints and prayers, and permitted them to be handed over to the destroyer with almost cold indifference—certainly,

without taking a single step up to this time, as far as they know, to even mitigate the evil.\*

The exciting causes of cholera may be said to be those conditions or things which are calculated to irritate, disturb, or greatly excite the mucous membrane of the alimentary tube—such as indigestible articles of diet, active cathartics, emetics, sudden impressions of cold upon the surface of the body, etc.

*Treatment.* The indications are clearly for the use of such remedies as will control the diarrhoea and the sickness of stomach, relieve the congestion of the stomach and bowels, and most important of all, relieve the congestion of the liver and normalize its secretion, arouse the nervous energy and allay the cramps or muscular spasms. To effect these purposes, various remedies have been employed and have their ardent advocates. Perhaps the most remarkable form of treatment which has been employed in past epidemics of cholera, and reported as being successful, is the strychnia and oleum terebinthinæ treatment, a report of which may be found in the Transactions of the American Medical Association, vol. 5, page 441, being part of the Report on the Epidemics of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, by Dr. G. MENDENHALL. The treatment was practised, in 1850, in the Commercial Hospital, Cincinnati.

I read from the report referred to: "The following prescription was first tried (in the Commercial Hospital) by Dr. HOWES, one of the resident physicians, under whose administration it was continued by the consent and advice of Professor EDWARDS, the attending physician at the time, both of them concurring in its propriety.

"R. Strychniæ, gr. ss.  
Ol. Terebinth., f. ʒij.  
Mucil. Acaciæ, f. ʒviij. M.

"Dose—one tablespoonful, to be repeated every half hour, until the discharges ceased and perfect reaction occurred. In some of the worst cases, the dose was repeated every fifteen minutes. In one case, the amount named in the above prescription was renewed seven times, (equal to 3½ grains of strychnia,) and given in the course of forty-eight hours. In one case only were the poisonous effects of the strychnia observed; in this case, Ojss. of the mixture, (equal to 1½ grains of strychnia,) was administered in the course of sixteen hours, and quite severe tetanic spasms were produced, which were, however, relieved in a short time by chloroform inhalations, and the patient recovered.

"The number of cases of cholera treated in the hospital during the year was fifty-seven. Seventeen of these were submitted to a treatment consisting mainly of the exhibition of calomel, camphor, morphia, etc. The conditions and results were as follows:

In collapse (pulseless at the wrist)	8,	recovered	0
In approaching collapse,	8	"	3
In early stage,	1	"	1
	—		—
	17	"	4

"Forty cases were submitted to what is called

\* Since the reading of this paper, the Board of Health has caused some of the establishments referred to, to be closed.



'strychnia treatment,' the condition and results were as follows:

In collapse (pulseless at the wrist)	12,	recovered	2
In approaching collapse,	20	"	18
In early stage,	8	"	8
	40	"	28

"Six of the fatal cases reacted perfectly under the strychnia and turpentine, and died of consecutive fever."

In fairness to the "strychnia treatment" I have to state, that all of the accounts that I have met with in regard to it in the hands of other physicians than those of the Commercial Hospital, do not sustain its utility.

During the prevalence of the present cholera epidemic abroad, but little new in the way of treatment of the disease has been reported, with the single exception of Dr. CHAPMAN's plan of managing the disorder, which consists mainly in the application to the spinal column of gum elastic bags filled with ice. The report of this treatment, as presented by Dr. CHAPMAN, is of the most favorable character. He reports, I think, seventeen cases treated, and all cured, with one exception. I opine that it is well to receive such a report with some degree of caution, if not of skepticism.

After as careful reading as my limited time would permit, I beg to present as the result of that reading, that the vast bulk of testimony is in favor of the mercurial, opium, and acetate of lead internal medication, the application of counter-irritants, stimulating and rubefacient embrocations, dry cups (tumblers) to the abdomen and along the spinal column; stimulants, and to allay the thirst, pellets of ice. This treatment I pursued and saw practised by others in 1849. From what I know of its good results, I feel called upon here to give it my unqualified endorsement.

To an adult, in the fully developed first or incipient stage, I would give one to three grains of calomel, half a grain of opium, and two grains of acetate of lead, every half hour, until the diarrhoea and vomiting began to cease, when I would increase the interval between the doses to an hour, an hour and a half, or two hours, as the pressing symptoms abated. I would have applied over the entire abdomen and along the entire length of the spine dry cups or large tumblers, and their application I would have continued for at least half an hour, frequently removing and re-applying them during that time. The cupping finished, I would direct that the entire body and extremities be rubbed with an embrocation composed of ol. terebinth. and strong aq. ammonia. The rubbing I would have repeated every half hour, until improvement became manifest, when I would direct the intervals between the rubbings to be increased. This treatment I would continue through the second stage, occasionally re-applying the cups and increasing the dose of opium to relieve the cramps. I would now give whisky or brandy, and apply dry heat, i. e., hot bricks, bottles filled with hot water, hot sad-irons, etc., to the extremities and along the trunk for the purpose of establishing a normal temperature and to invite increased capillary action in the skin. The opposite of this I know has been practised and

recommended, namely, the rubbing the body with ice. Of the utility of the friction with ice, I am without any experience. To allay thirst, pellets of ice, and ice only, should be given. The thirst being almost intolerable, the demands for water will be made in the most urgent and pressing manner, but they must be resisted, and ice only given to slake the thirst. The recumbent position must be strictly maintained, the patient being refused permission to rise for any purpose. It is of great importance to secure good ventilation in the patient's apartment.

In the stage of collapse the use of dry heat and the rubefacients should be continued; stimulants, beef essence, and milk-punch should be given in small quantities, repeated at short intervals. The collapse being passed, complications of an inflammatory character presenting, great care, and very judicious care, will be required to bring the patient safely through.

In 1849, I had an opportunity of treating a large number of cases of cholera, and of witnessing the treatment of many other cases, some by the mercurial, opium, acetate of lead, and active counter-irritant and rubefacient treatment, such as I have endeavored to sketch, and others by treatment differing radically from it, and experience bids me declare that the preponderating evidence is largely in favor of the mercurial, opium, acetate of lead, counter-irritant and rubefacient treatment.

I have not said anything in regard to the all-important prophylactic treatment of cholera. I would be pleased to make some observations upon this vitally important matter, but I must for the present forbear, as I fear if I were to take up this portion of the subject, I would occupy too much time and prevent the participation of many of the members in the discussion, who I know have their mental storehouses crowded with important facts in reference to cholera, its treatment, etc., and who are anxious to contribute their quota to the general fund of knowledge upon the subject of the evening's discussion. If an opportunity shall present this evening, I hope to be able to say something in regard to prevention, and to make some suggestions in regard to the action this Society should take in influencing and aiding the public authorities in taking the steps which are necessary to prevent, control, and modify the spread and malignancy of the pestilence.

#### Phenic Vinegar.

Dr. QUESNEVILLE gives the following recipe for an anti pestilential. Take acetic acid, 900 grammes; camphor, in powder, 5 grammes; crystallised phenic acid, 100 grammes. This combination of three antiputrescents is said to be extremely useful, and for hygienic purposes far superior to vinegar of the four thieves, as toilet vinegar was once called. It has been used a good deal on board ship to keep the cabins of sick persons sweet.—*Chem. News.—British Med. Journal.*

#### Child-bed Mortality in Vienna.

At a late meeting of the Vienna Society of Physicians, Professor SPARN stated in a report of the Clinical Lying-in Hospital for 1864, that out of 8,761 deliveries there were 86 deaths.

## MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, DECEMBER 30, 1865.

### ENLARGEMENT AND INCREASE OF PRICE.

The pressure of literary material on our columns makes it necessary to announce an increase of the size of the *MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER*. This increase, together with an improved external appearance, will take place from the first of January next; from which time the subscription price will be FIVE DOLLARS per annum. The cost of paper and labor seem to be permanently fixed at high rates, and we are compelled to accept the situation, and graduate our subscription rate accordingly. If these expenses lessen, or a liberal support justify it, we shall be enabled to further enlarge the work, or expend more on the literary department, or perhaps do both.

*All advance payments made prior to January 1st, 1866, will be credited at the present rate of \$4 per annum. Payments made after that date, will be credited at the rate of \$5.*

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

The FOURTEENTH volume of the *MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER* begins with the first issue of January, 1866, and we take pleasure in announcing that we have effected arrangements that will place it on a better footing in a literary point of view than ever before. These arrangements include some new features, among which are the following:—

#### A RESIDENT EDITOR FOR NEW YORK CITY,

who will attend to all matters of general interest to the profession that emanate from that important medical centre. Full and intelligent reports of the transactions of the two chief medical Societies of New York, viz., the *ACADEMY OF MEDICINE*, and the *PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY*, will appear regularly in our columns. The discussions before these societies are participated in by the *principal Physicians and Surgeons* of that city, and embrace every variety of subject interesting to medical men. Our columns will also be supplied with selections from some of the best clinics held in New York. All medical matters of interest arising in that field, will be independently and freely commented on. This arrangement will give New York and its medical interests a full representation in our columns.

In this city, our editorial arrangements include a chief editor, who devotes himself to the

#### GENERAL EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT

of the work, and to medical matters in this centre of medical education and publication. We have also engaged the services of one of the most erudite scholars in the ranks of the medical profession to take the special charge of the

#### REVIEW DEPARTMENT OF THE REPORTER.

New works of importance will be *fairly and independently* reviewed at moderate length, but a

large part of the issues of the press will be noticed in a series of articles in the form of *Familiar Notes on Books*, or talks about books, that will, as best adapted to our columns, give, in a brief, comprehensive, and attractive form, a general idea of the merits of a work, and its adaptableness to meet the wants of the practitioner of medicine.

Our arrangements in this city also include reports of the Discussions before the *Philadelphia County Medical Society*, and choice selections from the *clinical teachings* in our various hospitals. We also receive *select clinical reports* from the best sources in Baltimore.

In addition to this, we are publishing many communications of value on *Military Medicine and Surgery*, and expect soon to commence the publication of a series of articles on the *Medical and Surgical experiences of the United States Navy* in the late war.

It will thus be seen that our arrangements are adapted to give to the *REPORTER* a cosmopolitan character. We intend it to be in all respects a *representative journal* of American Medicine and Surgery, and shall spare no pains to make it a credit to our country. The past course of the *REPORTER* has secured for it the largest circulation ever attained by a medical journal in this country, and the present indications are decidedly favorable to an immediate and very large addition to its circulation. This has encouraged us to take the steps announced above toward perfecting our editorial organization, and if these arrangements are received with the favor we anticipate, we shall in due time be enabled to do still more to add to the value of the *REPORTER*.

In view of what has already been accomplished by the *REPORTER*, and of the announcement made above, we unhesitatingly appeal to our readers to exert themselves to extend its circulation, believing that in thus doing they will be subserving the best interests of the profession.

### CLOSE OF THE THIRTEENTH VOLUME.

With this number our labors on the thirteenth volume of the *MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER* are brought to a close. To us the results of the past six months have been eminently satisfactory. In all respects, our work has made substantial progress. Financially, it has met with a success which has given us the means to improve the work in a manner which will tend to command increased patronage, and thus insure continued success.

This volume contains a vast amount of practical matter, which can be made available by means of a carefully prepared Index, which will be found in this number.

The present indications are that the future volumes will be a great improvement upon this, and we look to our present readers for their aid in extending the circulation of the *REPORTER*, thus insuring it the means of still further adding to and extending its circulation.

## QUACKERY and THE RELIGIOUS PRESS.

Little can we demand of the worldly press, which with but very few—and these all the more honorable—exceptions, is nourished more or less by the *flesh* and influenced by the *devil* of quackery. From the columns of abortionists' advertisements in the N. Y. *Herald*, that vile sheet, which even the renownedly not most scrupulous class of our citizens—the dramatists and operatic managers—feel it below their dignity to advertise in, down to the little weekly country paper with its recommendations of "Cough Syrups" and "Pectorals," the whole secular press is drawing a large income by giving a place in its columns to *lying* advertisements and *lying* notices of quack nostrums, calculated to play upon the credulity of man and to play the dollars out of Mr. Public's pocket. And while we leave the worldly representatives of the newspaper press to the self-contempt which its conductors must feel if they have a spark of truthfulness and honesty left, when they imagine the father of lies making an entry in his big book of accounts to their *debit*, corresponding to every cash-entrance credited for obscene and quack advertisements, we must give credit also to where it belongs, and state, that there are two secular newspapers in the United States which from principle refuse all such advertisements—the "*Ledger*" of Philadelphia and the "*Chicago Republican*." Perhaps there are more. We hope there are. We would like to see three just men among the Sodomites.

But our talk to-day is with men, who claim a higher position in the scale of public morals than the everyday journalist, who preach truthfulness, charity, self-abnegation, who instruct us in the principle that no man is to do a mean thing for the sake of lucre, and whom the world looks upon as the proper persons to *practice* what they preach. We mean the religious press, which with scarce an exception, to our best knowledge, are all subservient to the same flesh and devil of quackery.

As an example, we will take one of the largest and most widely read religious papers in the country,—the "*Independent*." The first quack advertisement which disgraces its columns is the "Rev." Dr. P\*\*\*\*'s "Great New England Remedy," the "White Pine Compound," recommended by a number of other "reverend" gentlemen. Next comes the "Constitution Life Syrup," prepared by "Dr." Wm. H. Gregg, who has the impudence to insert as a recommendation to the sale of his nostrum that he is a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, formerly an Assistant Physician at Blackwell's Island Hospitals, and

late Medical Inspector New York State Volunteer Depots—things which he should be ashamed to tell, as they only show how miserably principled he must be to have fallen so low, after having been in so respectable society and such honorable positions. His "Life Syrup" is to cure "hemiplegia, paresis, paraplegia, paralysis agitans, indigestion, *weight of stomach*, flatulence, liver-complaint, want of appetite, bad breath, constipation, biliousness, struma, king's evil, glandular swellings, erysipelas, ulceration, salt-rheum, arthritis, lumbago, neuralgia, sciatica, gout, tic douloureux, nervous debility, St. Vitus' dance, confusion or thought, shattered nerves, loss of power, epilepsy, salivation, bad complexion, *feeling of weariness*, rotting of bones, aches in bones, depression of spirits!!"

If it will cure but one of these evils,—*confusion of thought*,—we insist on the managers and editors of the *Independent* taking the necessary quantity to dispel that mental confusion under which they appear to reconcile their *preaching* as teachers and exponents of Christian truth with their *practice* of giving insertion to such *swindling*, *lying* quack advertisements.

Then comes a "Vegetable pulmonary balsam," which is modestly claimed as superior for all diseases of the lungs, throat, and chest. Next the "Constitution water," the "only known remedy for diabetes, stone in the bladder, calculus, gravel, brick dust deposit, and mucous or milky discharges, irritation of the bladder, inflammation of the kidney, catarrh of the bladder, *impotency*," etc., certainly very interesting and instructive family reading on Sunday afternoon! So also the "Uterine Catholicon," *infallible* in all cases of female weakness.

But the effrontery of the "*Independent*" reaches its climax, when its very first opening article (we quote from 7th Dec. No.) is a paper on Cholera, by a correspondent, in which he claims for homoeopathy as saving 91 in 100 cases, while, what he terms "allopathy," saves never more than 68 in 100 cases. "These are *facts*," he exclaims, "and they are *reassuring facts*! The wise will heed them." This homoeopathic gentleman adduces some assertions which he has the audacity to call statistics, to prove his point—but they are eminently windy. If we are allowed to whisper to him our own experience during a severe cholera epidemic, it is this, that a certain homoeopathic M. D., did not lose *one single* patient, for the simplest reason in the world—when a patient was going from bad to worse, and death was inevitable, he left, suggesting that somebody else be called, and the somebody else was an "allopath,"



who came just in time to see the patient die, and of course *he* lost the case, not Mr. Infinitesimal!

We have not a word to say, if the managers and editors of the "*Independent*" believe in homoeopathy and allow themselves and their families to be trifled with infinitesimally. In charity we only hope that their delusions will never result in a serious sacrifice of health or of life. But protest we must, and shall, against their trifling with the supposed ignorance of their readers, and the presumed credulity of the public, by inserting articles which give untruthful, one-sided statements, and by which the health and lives of many may be put in jeopardy, nor can we express that protest with any other feeling than contemptuous disgust, when we see this same paper put itself almost on a level with the *New York Herald*, regarding quack advertisements.

These remarks are applicable not only to the *Independent*, but to all other newspapers of its class, which are liable to the same criticism.

## Notes and Comments.

### Bodies for Dissection.

A few weeks ago the following telegram appeared in the morning papers:

"ALBANY, November 29.

"Some excitement was occasioned here to-day by the discovery, in a barrel brought on the steamer *Dean Richmond* from New York, of the bodies of a male and female packed in saw-dust. The barrel was directed to John Towler, Geneva, and it is supposed the corpses were intended for dissection. A coroner now has them in charge."

There is a law in the State of New York legalizing dissection, and providing for the supply of cadavers to the medical schools. There is no reason why bodies, legally turned over to medical men for scientific purposes, should not be sent to places where they are needed, provided the laws regarding the removal and transportation of the dead are complied with.

### Bellevue Hospital Medical College.

Some of the New York newspapers, through anonymous correspondents, have of late been busying themselves with demanding "Light" on the subject of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. They claim that the expenses of the College building, in process of erection, are defrayed by unlawful appropriations by the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner ISAAC BELL replies to these charges in very short terms. He says:

"This building was contracted for and commenced by the late Board of Commissioners, consisting of Messrs. DRAPER, GRINNELL, NICHOLSON,

and myself. Two of the present Board, Messrs. BOWEN and BRENNAN, have had nothing to do with it.

"The object and purposes of the building are perfectly within the line of duty of this Department, and legitimately belonging to it.

If any person really desires information on this subject, it seems to me the proper place to find it is at the office of the Commissioners; and failing to be convinced by their statements, of the propriety or integrity of their course, to so state it to the public over his own signature."

We suggest to these writers, that if they wish to economize, and inaugurate municipal reform, that there is plenty of opportunity of doing so in other departments than that of public charities and the institutions connected therewith.

## News and Miscellany.

### Anecdotes of the Microscope.

Some years since in England, barrels containing gold dust were emptied of their precious contents and filled with sand. The party robbed, not being entirely satisfied with the exchange, submitted the case to the microscopist Ehrenberg. The latter, by examining with the microscope specimens of sand from the several stations on that part of the road traversed by the barrels, was enabled by the peculiarities of its appearance to designate the place at which the barrels had been filled. The officers of justice were thus put upon the right track, and the thieves captured.

A few years ago, a man under trial for murder in Western New York asserted that blood stains on an axe found in his possession were from a dog which he had killed. The case was referred to Prof. Hadley of Buffalo, who was purposely kept in ignorance of all the circumstances. Submitting the blood-stains to microscopic inspection, he decided that they were from a dog, thus confirming the poor man's testimony.

### Music.

We have received from HORACE WATERS, No. 481 Broadway, New York, Publisher, the following pieces:

"*Do They Love Me Still, as Ever.*" Words by Mrs. M. A. Kidder. Music by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

"*Come to the Window, Love.*" Serenade. By H. P. Danks.

"*Wait, My Little One, Wait.*" Ballad by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

"*'Tis Sweet to Think of Heaven.*" Sacred song by H. P. Danks.

"*The Nation's Jubilee.*" Words by W. H. W. Music by M. A. B. Clarke.

"*My Jamie's on the Battle Field.*" Words by Mrs. M. A. Kidder. Music by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

"*Santa Claus.*" Song and Chorus. Written and composed by Rev. A. A. Graley.

"*Promenade Concert Polka.*" Composed by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst.

### "The King of Pain."

Says the Cincinnati *Lancet and Observer*, "quite an amusing farce has been performing in this city for some days past. Almost any day, you may see driving through our principal thoroughfares a long-haired gentleman, a blanket poster placarded on his buggy announcing the King of Pain! He holds the reins over a stylish pair of black horses, and frequently has a contraband with him grinding a hand organ. Occasionally, the buggy-throne of the 'King' is preceded by a magnificent brass band, carriage, and six horses. Of course, everybody stops and takes note of the new quack; everybody laughs hugely at the absurd, but novel mode of catching gulls; everybody buys the liniment! And as this last is the main point of the 'King's' efforts, what cares he for the laugh."

### Bequests by a Physician.

Dr. JOHN GREEN, of Worcester, Mass., leaves to that city, besides his library of 12,000 volumes, \$30,000 as a permanent library fund, which will be eventually increased to \$100,000, by life legacies to other parties. One quarter of the income bequeathed directly to the city is to be added annually to the principal, and the other three quarters in the purchase of books and improvements to the Green Library.

### MARRIED.

BROTHER—LUKENS.—At Burlington, N. J., on the 21st instant, by Rev. Wm. A. Johnson, Ferdinand Brother, M.D., and Mattie M., daughter of David P. Lukens, Esq.

CHASE—DOW.—Dec. 14, by Rev. E. N. Kirk, D.D., Mr. George W. Chase and Miss Sarah M., daughter of Dr. John Dow, all of Boston, Mass.

DENNIS—REED.—In San Francisco, Cal., Nov. 8th, by Rev. H. A. Sawtelle, Dr. S. W. Dennis, of Litchfield, Me., and Miss Mary E. Reed.

FISCHER—BATES.—At Potosi, Mo., on Sunday, Nov. 12, by the Rev. H. R. Miller, James Fisher, M.D., Ex-Surgeon Major of the National Army of Poland, and Rodella, only daughter of the late Edward S. Bates, of Brooklyn.

HARRIS—STEVENS.—Dec. 21, in Trinity Church, Hoboken, N. J., by Rev. N. Sayre Harris, E. B. Harris, M.D., of Richfield Spa, N. Y., and Anna Isabella, youngest daughter of James A. Stevens, Esq., of Hoboken, N. J.

KELLOOG—SMITH.—Aug. 31st, 1865, at Neenah, Wis., by Rev. A. A. Dinsmore, Dr. E. S. Kellogg and Mrs. Cordelia B. Smith.

NEWELL—JOHNSTON.—Dec. 12th, by Rev. T. A. McCurdy, Mr. Bentley Newell, of East Liverpool, Ohio, and Miss Maggie J., eldest daughter of E. Johnston, M.D., Wellsville, O.

STEWART—GALBRAITH.—Nov. 23, by Rev. W. G. March, Dr. R. M. Stewart, of Lowellville, and Mrs. Jane A. Galbraith, of Canfield, Ohio.

### DIED.

DUFFIELD.—Near Elkview, Chester co., Pa., Dec. 5, of typhoid fever, Henry Duffield, M.D., in the 66th year of his age. Dr. D. was a zealous and devoted Christian, and a man of varied and extensive information and usefulness.

HOWE.—At Lewisboro', N. Y., on Saturday, Dec. 2, Elizabeth M., widow of the late Dr. J. C. Howe.

LEONARD.—In Sandwich, Mass., Dec. 6, Mrs. Alice C., wife of Dr. J. Leonard.

LEVING.—In Lower Merion, Montgomery co., Pa., suddenly, Dec. 19th, of scarlatina, Joseph Hagy, youngest son of Dr. Joseph and Mary Jane Leving, in the 5th year of his age.

LOVERIDGE.—In Brooklyn, N. Y., on Thursday, Nov. 30th, Dr. A. Loveridge, aged 77 years.

RICHARDS.—In North Conway, N. H., Dec. 12th, Harriet De Witt, only daughter of Dr. Wolcott and Susan H. Richards.

SMITH.—In Newark, N. J., Friday morning, Dec. 15, Lyndon A. Smith, M.D., aged 70 years.

SMITH.—Dec. 11, at sea, William B. Smith, son of Dr. William A. Smith, of Philadelphia, aged 22 years.

STEVENS.—In Petersburg, Mich., Dec. 2d, 1865, Frank, only child of Dr. L. S. and R. Louisa Stevens, aged 11 years and 6 months.

TRADEAU.—In New York, Dec. 23, Francis Rene Trudeau, in the 22d year of his age, son of Dr. Trudeau.

### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. H. L. D., Latrobe, Pa.—Urethral Syringe, sent by mail, Dec. 16th.

Dr. H. A. S. Gallatin, Tenn.—Byford on Diseases of Women, sent by mail, Dec. 15th.

Dr. W. P. R., New Market, Tenn.—Bellocq's Canula, sent by mail, Dec. 19th.

Visiting Lists have been sent to the following persons: Drs. J. C. N. City; J. H. K., Worcester, Pa.; W. W. J. and J. C. N., Toledo, O.; M. H. R., Ridgeville, Ohio; S. E. W., Cecilton, Md.; A. G., Dayton, Ohio; H. D. Bethlehem, Conn.; F. C. E., Bristol, Ind.; J. McC., Davenport, Iowa; L. T. H., Onkalla, Ill.; T. G. C., Long Branch, N. J.; A. P. T., City; L. J., Bordentown, N. J.

Hand Books have been sent by mail to the following persons: Drs. J. H. F., Harrisburg, Pa.; D. K. B., Washingtonville, O.; C. G. T., Jonestown, Pa.; B. M., Strasburg, Pa.; T. B. S., Pleasantville, Pa.; C. L. S., East Troy, Wis.

Dr. J. K. H., Litch, Pa.—The price of Kidder's Electro-medical apparatus is \$15.

Dr. P. H. B., Springfield, Ill.—There is a manifest error in the prescription to which you allude on p. 377. It should read:

R. Liq. potass. citratis, f.℥iv.  
Sodæ bicarb., ℥ij.  
Syrup scillæ,  
" senegæ, ℞ f.℥ss. M.

Dr. D. G., Jamestown, Pa.—Hodge's or Meig's obstetrical forceps are usually preferred in this city. There is little choice between them. We use the former. Price \$7.

### METEOROLOGY.

December	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
Wind.....	N.	S.	N. E.	N. W.		N. W.	S. W.
	Clear.	Cl'dy.	Cl'dy.	Clear.		Clear.	Cl'dy.
Weather.....			Snow.				Fog.
			Rain.				
Depth Rain.....			2 5-10				
Thermometer.							
Minimum.....	15°	28°	30°	28°	Not	10°	16°
At 8 A. M.....	30	37	42	39	noted.	20	27
At 12 M.....	35	42	39	40		23	39
At 5 P. M.....	35	43	40	40		24	38
Mean.....	28.75	35.	37.75	36.75		19.25	30.
Barometer.							
At 12 M.....	30.4	29.8	30.1	30.3		30.7	30.
Germantown, Pa.				H. J. LEEDOM.			

### Medical Society of New Jersey.

The 100th Annual Meeting of the Medical Society of New Jersey will be held at New Brunswick, on the fourth Tuesday (23d) of January, at 11 o'clock, P. M.

Delegates are requested to furnish the Recording Secretary with their credentials before that day, and be prepared to pay to the Treasurer the respective district assessments.

On Tuesday the regular business of the Society will be attended to, and on the next day, (Wednesday), at 11 o'clock, A. M., the appropriate exercises of the centennial celebration will take place, viz.

Address by the President, Dr. A. M. COLES.

History of the Society by Dr. WM. PIERSON, Recording Secretary.

Dinner, of which delegates from corresponding Societies and invited guests will partake.

The remainder of the day will be spent in social intercourse, and listening to speeches at the table.

N. B. All regular members of District Societies are entitled to attend the celebration without the authority of delegation.

WILLIAM PIERSON, Recording Secretary.

Dec. 15, 1865.



